

EDITORIAL

Deep crisis and intense struggles in the past year

The past year 2025 saw a worsening of the economic and political crisis of the ruling system, increased US imperialist military intervention, and a deterioration of the social conditions of the majority of the population. At the same time, it saw the intensification of struggles against corruption and fascism of the US-Marcos regime.

The conflict among the ruling classes, particularly between the Marcos and Duterte factions, became more overt. The House of Representatives filed an impeachment case against Sara Duterte in February, but the case stalled when Ferdinand Marcos Jr himself intervened in the Senate hearing. In March, Marcos cooperated with the Interpol to arrest and detain former President Rodrigo Duterte in the Netherlands on the strength of an International Criminal Court warrant. He will be tried for crimes against humanity due to the mass killings in the "war on drugs".

Elections for the senate, congress, and local government were held in May. The elections were characterized by brazen cheating and manipulation of results. This reflected the conflicts and accommodations among the different factions of the ruling class, and US imperialist inter-

ference. While US support for Marcos remains intact, it has also positioned its reserve horses for running in the 2028 elections.

US military intervention was unprecedented throughout the year. In

collaboration with the Marcos regime, and using the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), it opened new military bases and facilities. The US deployed additional military equipment to the Philippines. Provocative military exercises were continuously conducted within and around the South China Sea, to the detriment of Filipino fisherfolk.

The conflict between the ruling classes intensified further following the exposure of large-scale corruption cases related to anomalous flood control projects and infrastructure contracts. The people's anger boiled over as it was revealed that Marcos and corrupt government officials had pocketed enormous amounts of money.

A massive protest movement against corruption and bureaucratic capitalism swept across the country. For two months from September, students in various campuses staged continuous walk-outs and rallies. A broad alliance of anti-corruption forces from different sectors and areas was formed, despite some forces attempting to divert the people's anger away



from Marcos.

Amid attempts to cover up Malacañang's role in the anomalies through a pretend "investigation," those involved in the corruption revealed that Marcos himself was the mastermind and had received the largest kickbacks from hundreds of billions of pesos in infrastructure projects. Not soon after, calls for the resignation or ouster of Marcos and Duterte reverberated loudly.

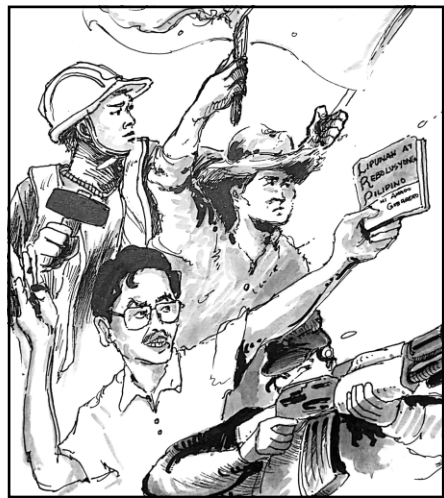
The movement against corruption erupted amid the deepening economic crisis, worsening conditions for the broad masses of the population, and the numerous programs and measures of the Marcos regime that further burdened the people.

The people are disgusted by low wages of workers, unemployment, almost weekly increases in oil prices, steep charges for poor water, electricity, and transportation services, jeepney phaseout, privatization of markets, destructive and livelihood-destroying reclamation of the sea, land grabbing, eviction of farmers, and other hardships. Claims of peace are hollow amid intense oppression and suffering of the people.

There is a widespread call for a ₱1,200 daily minimum wage. There are notable workers' strikes and vari-

ous sectoral actions in different areas fighting for their welfare. More and more people are rising up against the fascist suppression of the Marcos regime. The assertion of the national-democratic program by progressive parties during the elections enlightened many. The effort to organize and mobilize the masses will surely bear fruit and grow in the coming periods.

In the face of deep crisis and intense struggles, and as a result of the rectification movement, the Party and revolutionary forces have continuously strengthened. The Party continuously raised its level of theory and practice through the study movement. The Party has promoted the study of bureaucratic capitalism as guide to the people's understanding



of the prominent issue of corruption.

The underground revolutionary mass organizations in urban areas are being strengthened, including those of workers, peasants, youth, teachers, artists, scientists, doctors, nurses, and health workers, church people, Filipino migrants, and other sectors. While carrying out propaganda for the people's democratic revolution, more and more people decide to join the armed struggle and revolutionary peasant movement in the countryside.

In the countryside, peasant struggles continue to advance in defense of their land and livelihood against land grabbers, against the oppressive policies of the Marcos regime, and against the fascist suppression of its armed minions. There were prominent barricades and other forms of action in some areas. The Party's branches and committees are being strengthened, and revolutionary mass organizations of peasants, youth, and women are being formed, along with their militia units and self-defense units, while the units of the New People's Army (NPA) continue to engage in mass work and wage guerilla warfare.

Under the leadership, and with the support of the Party, the NPA continues to expand and deepen its peasant mass base. With its broad support, most of the NPA units have preserved their strength in the face of relentless combat operations by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP). There have been increasing successes in active defense, tactical offensives, and punishment of treacherous and fascist elements. The recruitment and training of new Red fighters and commanders continue.

In the face of the deepening crisis of the ruling system, and on the foundation of the rectification movement, the Party looks forward to further strengthen and advance the people's democratic revolution in the coming years. The Party is determined to lead the broad masses in waging the protracted people's war and achieving victories across the country.



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NPA actions in Negros and Samar

New People's Army (NPA) units launched five armed actions in Negros and Samar islands in recent weeks. These included targeting military intelligence assets and operating police troops.

In Negros Occidental, a firefight with an NPA-Northern Negros (Roselyn Jean Pelle Command) team killed Police Senior Master Sergeant Rommel Aguilar. A 9mm pistol and ammunition were seized from him. The NPA encountered the group of police officers in Purok 5, Barangay Lagaan in Calatrava on December 7. The Red fighters were then withdrawing from a military action against military intelligence asset Mando Ugdiman in Sitio Tagda, Barangay Dolis. Confiscated from Ugdiman were a .45 pistol, ammunition, and other military equipment.

On December 13, an NPA-Southwest Negros (Armando Sumayang Jr Command) operation killed intelligence asset Amay Jimenez in Sitio Makilo, Barangay

Camansi, Kabankalan City in. Jimenez was involved in pinpointing the location and planning the assassination in November 2022 of his brother, peasant leader Joseph Jimenez, and National Democratic Front of the Philippines peace consultant Ericson Acosta. Another intelligence asset was punished in Sipalay City on December 4.

Exemplary defense

In Samar, two soldiers of the Intelligence Service of the AFP (ISAFP) and the Military Intelligence Battalion (MIB) under the 8th ID were killed in an armed encounter with the NPA-Western Samar (Arnulfo Ortiz Command) in Barangay Babaclayon, San Jose de Buan. The battle occurred around

1:32 a.m. on December 3.

The NPA reported that two of its fighters were in the community to consult with the masses plagued by militarization. Not fewer than 20 military troops had been operating in the said community for three days as of that day.

Military intelligence operatives surrounded the house hosting the fighters forcing them to surrender. In response, the Red fighters ensured the safety of the civilians and safely escorted the entire family out of the house. A Red fighter fired at the soldiers, catching them off guard. The Red fighter dropped prone to the ground in front of the enemy forces while firing his pistol. Two fascist troops were killed in the close-range battle. To escape, the two Red fighters jumped out of the house while the enemies were shooting. One of the fighters was wounded. AB

CPP declares ceasefire for traditional holidays, anniversary

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) declared a four-day ceasefire in solidarity with the Filipino masses' traditional celebrations. The Party's Central Committee directed the New People's Army (NPA) to implement it from 00:00 a.m. on December 25 until 11:59 p.m. on December 26, and from 00:00 a.m. on December 31 until 11:59 p.m. on January 1, 2026.

The Party leadership said the ceasefire allows Filipinos to hold simple celebrations amid the grave social and economic conditions under the Marcos regime. The revolutionary movement, together with the people, also sees this as an opportunity to celebrate the Party's 57th anniversary on December 26.

In carrying out the ceasefire, the Central Committee ordered NPA units to maintain active defense, especially amid relentless Armed

Forces of the Philippines (AFP) combat operations. The Central Committee stated that NPA units must work closely with the masses to ensure its implementation. "They must be ever ready to maneuver or counter-attack, when necessitated by the situation," the Central Committee said.

The AFP and the Department of National Defense immediately opposed the unilateral ceasefire declared by the Party and the people's army. According to the Party, the

Marcos regime's agents' statement proves the bloodthirsty character of its armed forces and their intent to disrupt the Filipino masses' peaceful festivities.

"Marcos wants to give the people nothing but bullets and bombs as gifts for the coming traditional celebrations by ordering the AFP and police to carry out nonstop combat operations in the countryside," Party information officer Marco Valbuena said.

Meanwhile, the Party condemned the Philippine Army's claim that the NPA violated the ceasefire in the Northern Samar clash on December 15, when it was not yet covered by the declaration. AB

Rectification movement: Continuous consolidation of the Party and the NPA in Negros

Amid intense military operations, the revolutionary movement in Negros perseveres in advancing the rectification movement. It relentlessly strives to consolidate the New People's Army (NPA) and the Party. It holds collective studies on the multi-level Party courses and military training.

The intermediate Party course was recently held on the island in a staggered manner. Cadres and military officers attended. The entire course totalling 54 hours was completed safely. The study covered additional guiding principles for revitalizing mass work and implementing revolutionary tasks within the framework of the rectification movement.

Cadres and officers of the NPA also successfully completed their studies and training in the shortened course on intelligence work. The training lasted three and a half days, including the practicum. The command decided to use the practicum results as the official operational plans for upcoming NPA tactical offensives.

"This theoretical study and training add knowledge for successful military work, especially in launching tactical offensives," platoon leader Ka Marco said.

"We must give justice to the comrades and masses victimized by the enemy's intense fascism... we must seize ammunition and weapons from the butchers and fascist AFP, PNP, and paramilitary forces and arm new Red fighter recruits," he said.

"The political situation is now very ripe. The Party must fulfill its role in leadership, and the Army must carry out its central task through successful tactical offensives in line with the people's intense fury over the state's plunder of the public coffers," political instructor Ka Myra said.



"The revolutionary movement must strongly ring the bell of widespread offensives and the resounding gunfire of the New People's Army in the countryside, alongside the mass protests in the city streets," she said.

AB



Wyeth-Nestle and union CBA. The Wyeth Philippines Progressive Workers Union formally signed a new CBA with Wyeth-Nestle Philippines on December 9. The union successfully secured a P6,000 wage increase for the next three years. Through collective action, the union also won a P30,000 signing bonus and other benefits.

Gardenia and Philfoods workers' protest. The workers and unions of Gardenia Bakeries Phils Inc and Philfoods Fresh Baked Products Inc protested inside the factories and outside the Laguna International Industrial Park (LIIP) in Biñan, Laguna on December 19. They demanded wage increases, benefits, and to end attacks against union members.

US-deported seafarers charge DFA, manning agencies. After suffering arbitrary US deportation, Filipino seafarers asserted their rights and held the DFA and manning agencies accountable. In a dialogue on December 12, a DFA official promised to speed up the processing of new passports for the affected seafarers, provide assistance in appealing the visa cancellations, and waive related fees.

Workers uphold rights at Wipro Cebu. Employees of Wipro Philippines in Cebu held a silent protest while their representatives held a dialogue with the company, and DOLE on December 1. The employees complained of the company's numerous violations of their labor rights. Their main grievance was Wipro Cebu's unjust plan to place 400 employees under "floating status" starting December 15.

Filipino workers in Taiwan vote to strike. On December 1, Filipino women workers at Taidoc Technology Co. Ltd. voted to go on strike against the company's violations of labor laws. The violations included forced factory cleaning, strict dormitory rules, and unreasonable charges. This was the union's first strike.

Forge social conscience and unity for justice and truth

The broad participation and involvement of church people, religious leaders, and laity in demonstrations against the Marcos regime's rampant corruption gained prominence in recent months. Despite remaining conservative, the Church's voice and stance have been among the most compelling forces that drew thousands to join the people's movement against corruption.

At its core is the revolutionary struggle of members of the Christians for National Liberation (CNL), the backbone of the Christian people's struggle. Newly elected CNL officials Ka Lila and Ka Mingol imparted this in an interview with Ang Bayan.

Ka Mingol said the Church and other religious groups have great influence in a predominantly Catholic country like the Philippines.

"They are regarded as advocates of justice and truth," he said. The participation of church institutions and religious people in protest actions motivates families and communities, as they serve as standards of moral legitimacy in the eyes of many.

Ka Lila meanwhile said church people and the faithful are taught compassion for others, sincerity in helping each other, and to act for truth and honesty, especially amid grave poverty and calamities. "The systematic theft of resources meant for the most needy is unacceptable," she said.

However, the different stances of the Church toward the people's call became evident on November 30. This was seen in the actions of the Iglesia ni Cristo and leaders of the Catholic Bishop's Conference of the Philippines. During those instances, the CNL called for an uncom-

promising stand and action based on justice, truth, and integrity, and for breaking away from the squabbles between the ruling classes and families benefiting from bureaucrat capitalism.

"The corruption issue in flood control projects is only a small part of the reactionary government's rampant and systematic corruption," Ka Lila said. "This is not only about conflicts among a few but about bureaucrat capitalism or exploitation, where government is run as a business, and the powerful willfully accumulate wealth."

"The CNL rejects the narrative that our choice of allegiance is only between two rival camps, because both Marcos Jr and Sara Duterte, and other involved parties, must be held accountable," Ka Mingol added.

Church leaders vary in their statements about corruption but the CNL clearly sees the widespread outrage of the religious against it, Ka Lila said.

"Church leaders are challenged

to be models of humility and dialogue," Ka Mingol continued. He also called on lower-level leaders—bishops, priests, pastors, ministers, and local leaders—not to be mere followers of the official line, especially when it goes against what they have learned about justice. "They are protectors of the flock, not defenders of the powerful or of silence amid evil. They must shape the conscience of members to participate with conviction, not only as part of a bloc but as responsible individuals of society."

As in the past, the church plays a huge role in organizing and enlightening the people for justice and social change, Ka Mingol said. It is important to relentlessly strengthen the ranks for the people's democratic revolution. He said that CNL is determined to overcome and triumph over the strong challenges of conservatism, self-preservation (for personal interests), and Red-tagging to achieve new vitality in expanding the ranks of revolutionaries among religious people.

The CNL clarifies that revolutionary action is necessary to eliminate bureaucrat capitalism. This is what awakens and unites fervor, especially among the broad ranks of religious youth. They show enthusiasm in joining protest movements up to armed struggle in the countryside. The CNL campaigns among church people for the revolutionary program of the National Democratic Front, showing that an alternative system of governance exists—one that serves the democratic interests of the masses. **AB**



Corruption collusion of bourgeois compradors and bureaucrat capitalists

Recent months have seen the exposure of systemic corruption and blatant theft of public funds by those in power. From anomalous infrastructure projects and pork barrel funds to “unprogrammed appropriation” and “allocables” in the national budget, the role of bureaucrat capitalism has become clear in the people's intolerable suffering and poverty.

The existing system allows bureaucrat capitalists not only to use their position to amass wealth. They also craft laws and implement policies that serve the interests of their favored big bourgeois compradors and foreign capitalists. They further accumulate wealth through this process.

In the US-Marcos regime's more than three years, it amended and implemented at least 15 laws for the relief and benefit of the bourgeois compradors and foreign capitalists. These include laws that reduce corporate taxes, allow companies to own 100% of essential industries such as telecommunications, airports, and renewable energy, and permit the acquisition and use of Philippine land for up to 99 years. The regime also expedited and simplified the processing of foreign investors' applications in the country.

Manny Villar, Enrique Razon, and Ramon Ang are among the big bourgeois compradors who amassed immense wealth under the US-Marcos regime. These three are also behind the country's largest political parties. Razon controls the National Unity Party, Villar leads the Nacionalista Party, and Ramon Ang heads the Nationalist People's Coalition. They control about 42% of senators, 27% of

congressmen, and 33% of governors.

Privatization as part of systemic corruption

The privatization of public services, infrastructure, and enterprises serves as one of the major sources of wealth for the comprador big bourgeoisie. One of the ways to secure projects is through an Unsolicited Proposal (UPS) under the Public-Private Partnership Code of the Philippines (PPP, 2023). The law further allows the private sector to select and manage projects it aims to control.

Under PPP, the government provides a “guarantee” using public funds to ensure that the project proceeds. The government also shoulders the losses if the project fails.

Ramon Ang's San Miguel Corporation (SMC) greatly benefited from PPP. SMC obtained several of its biggest projects through UPS. These

include the New Manila International Airport (NMIA), MRT 7, Cavite-Batangas Expressway, and Pangasinan Link Expressway. Colluding with the Marcos regime allowed Ang to acquire for SMC the contract to operate and manage the country's main airport and the massive Navotas Bay Reclamation Project. The project includes constructing a business district and an expressway leading to NMIA. The company also obtained a ten-year tax holiday for the NMIA construction.

Despite destruction to the environment and the people's livelihood of its infrastructure projects, SMC has yet to be held accountable for violations of laws and human rights. While amassing wealth using public funds, it enjoys the protection of bureaucrat capitalists, who also benefit from its businesses. It freely uses the police, military, legislature, and courts to protect its interests. This collusion highlights the deep corruption within the bureaucrat capitalist system.

Through privatization, foreign capitalists and local bourgeois compradors dictate which parts of the economy receive funding, how development proceeds, and for whose benefit. As the US-Marcos regime continues to push for the privatization of the remaining public services, corporations, and infrastructure, the people sink deeper into the quagmire of poverty while the comprador bourgeoisie and bureaucrat capitalists further increase their wealth and greed.



HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

(DECEMBER 1, 2024 – DECEMBER 1, 2025)

239,357

NUMBER OF VICTIMS

665

NUMBER OF CASES

40

KILLINGS

312

PHYSICAL ASSAULT

34

ABDUCTION

306

TORTURE

21

COERCION

11

FRUSTRATED
KILLING

373

ARREST AND
DETENTION

7,645

FORCIBLE EVACUATION
AND DISPLACEMENT

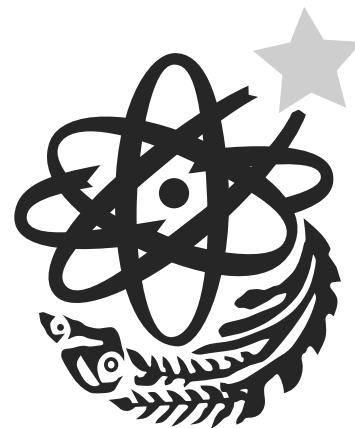
12,187

THREAT, HARASSMENT,
AND INTIMIDATION

Special Report:

Amid widespread corruption:
US-Marcos regime
perpetuates fascist repression
against the people

<https://philippinerevolution.nu/>



Celine Manlimbasog

is the new NDF-Eastern Visayas spokesperson. She was appointed to the revitalized propaganda work in the region. The region has also resumed the revolutionary publication Larab.

50 years

of the Liga ng Agham para sa Bayan (League of Science for the People) this December 30..

₱24.81 MILLION

in pension funds released by the SSS in 2024 were under the names of deceased members. It also spent ₱13.19 million for 143,424 tissue paper rolls or ₱92.00/roll.

400,000

civilians evacuated from the border of Thailand and Cambodia as war broke out between the two countries. They included 118 Filipino teachers.



salary increase for MUP (military and other uniformed personnel) by Marcos Jr to further fatten soldiers and police, while government employees, teachers, and hospital workers suffer from low wages, delayed benefits, and excessive workloads.

20

jeepneys and vans illegally impounded by the LTO were reclaimed by drivers on December 10; these vehicles had been used in the Baha sa Luneta 2.0 protest on November 30.



COMRADE MADVI HIDMA

a Central Committee member of the Communist Party of India-Maoist and PLGA commander, was captured and willfully killed by the fascist Modi regime on November 18. He was renowned for successful PLGA tactical offensives..

Filipinos rise for human rights

Filipinos joined protests marking the 77th International Human Rights Day on December 10. Thousands nationwide marched to uphold human rights and condemn the Marcos regime for its relentless violations of the people's rights.

Karapatan and Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) led the actions in Manila and 15 cities and provinces. The International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines expressed support for the mobilization.

In Manila, thousands participated in the gathering and program at Liwasang Bonifacio and the march to Mendiola. Aside from organizations based in the National Capital Region, groups from Southern Tagalog also joined the protest. Their united call: "End the fascist, corrupt, and oppressive US-Marcos Jr. regime!"

In May 2025, the Marcos regime formally implemented the National Action Plan for Unity, Peace, and Development 2025-2028. It served as the framework for intensified political repression of the people. The National Task Force-Elcac primarily enforces it.

According to Karapatan's record, at least 11 million Filipinos have fallen victim to human rights violations committed by state forces under the Marcos regime. These include victims of extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, arbitrary arrests, forced or fake surrenders, indiscriminate shootings and bombings, forced evacuation and threats, harassment, and intimidation, including Red-tagging.

At least 696 political prisoners remain detained, 163 of whom were arrested under Marcos. Political prisoners include 136 women, 93 elderly, and 89 with illnesses. Also detained are 12 National Demo-

cratic Front of the Philippines consultants and staff for peace negotiations.

Concluding the protest in Mendiola, groups burned an effigy of Marcos and Sara Duterte depicting them as the king and queen of fascism and corruption. The effigy showed Marcos and Duterte carrying armalites while sitting on cash suitcases that symbolized corruption.

Similar protests and activities were held in Baguio City, Tabuk City in Kalinga, Mountain Province, Laoag City in Ilocos Norte, Tarlac, Nueva Ecija, Bulacan, Legazpi City in Albay, Naga City in Camarines Sur, Iloilo City, Kalibo City in Aklan, Roxas City in Capiz, Bacolod City, Cebu City, and Davao City.

Church and legislators uphold human rights

Since the previous Duterte regime, the state has held the bloodiest record of human rights violations in Mindanao. The most severe abuses occurred during the imposition of martial law from May 2017 to 2019.

On December 9-10, the Mindanao Human Rights Summit was held in Davao City. A total of 242 delegates from the Church, along with lawyers, human rights defenders, and mass organizations from



Mindanao, attended the event.

Participants held the general assembly and launching of Pakighiusa sa Anawim-Mindanao (Panaw-Mindanaw) on the second day. The newly established group aims to give voice and justice to victims of human rights violations in Mindanao.

Congress relaunched the Legislators for Human Rights or Makatao Coalition on December 9. The coalition aims to advance laws that will protect human rights. Including the Makabayan Bloc, it was initially formed by legislators in 2018 to oppose the extrajudicial killings by the then Duterte regime. It is currently led by Rep. Leila de Lima.

AB

Third anniversary of Ka Joma's death marked

Family, friends, comrades, the party, and organizations worldwide commemorated the third anniversary of Comrade Jose Maria Sison's death on December 16. They held activities in the Philippines and the Netherlands to remember Ka Joma.

In the Netherlands, the documentary film *My Friend the Terrorist* was played on December 13. The Jose Maria Sison Legacy Foundation, Friends of the Filipino People in Struggle, and its local organization Maya Solidarity led the activity.

In the Philippines, a local branch of the Communist Party of the Philippines in Rizal province dedicated to Ka Joma its Basic Party Course study on December 16.

In Quezon City, Artista at Manunulat ng Sambayanan chapters honored Ka Joma through a lightning rally they led at the University of the Philippines-Diliman on December 17. They held the activity in the middle of the annual Lantern Parade on campus that attracts thousands of distant spectators.

The rally also highlighted the upcoming 57th anniversary of the Party on December 26 and the call to the Filipino people, especially the youth, to participate in the people's war and join the New People's Army.

AB

MSP-NCR launches assembly

MORE THAN 20 members of Makabayang Samahang Pangkalusugan-National Capital Region (MSP-NCR, or Patriotic Health Alliance) chapter gathered in a secret location on December 6 to launch their regional assembly. Hospital health workers, nurses, doctors, medical technologists, dentists, and students of medicine and nursing attended the event.

MSP-NCR held the assembly to mark its 47th anniversary since its founding on December 6, 1978.

At the gathering, MSP-NCR reaffirmed its support for the people's democratic revolution amid the Filipino people's extreme suffering. It stated that merging the health sector's strength with the people's struggle for advancing the revolution is crucial.

The assembly also formulated a five-point resolution to invigorate its struggle. The resolution appeared in a special issue of the publication *Ang Rebolusyonaryong Lunas* (The Revolutionary Cure).

According to the regional chapter, the gathering was an important occasion for consolidating the MSP membership. It provided an opportunity for members to share revolutionary experiences in organizing and delivering MSP services that responded to the call to go to the countryside. It added that the assembly also served as an important step in preparing for further consolidation of MSP at the national level.

Peasants and indigenous people evicted from their own land

FOREIGN COMPANIES and the big comprador bourgeoisie are ruthlessly seizing the natural resources and ancestral lands of indigenous people and peasants in the country. Using the police, the military, and the courts, they trample on the farmers' right to land, suppress their resistance, and exploit the law to drive them out of their own land.

In Sitio Marihangin, Barangay Bugsuk, Balabac, Palawan, nine land grabbers filed "squatting" or illegal habitation charges against 282 indigenous residents of the sitio. Those charged included the deceased and even children. On December 17, a court representative with armed police went to the sitio to serve a TRO or temporary restraining order against the residents.

The order forbids blocking the land grabbers from entering the sitio for 20 days. Residents said the case is clearly linked to San Miguel Corporation (SMC)'s plan to seize their ancestral land. For several years, SMC subsidiary Bricktree Properties has been trying to claim the land for a 25,000-hectare tourism infrastructure meant for the Balabac rich elite.

In Dupax del Norte, Nueva Vizcaya, the court twice ordered the dismantling of the residents' barricade against Woggle Corporation. On December 10, residents and church people successfully stopped the attempted demolition. On December 12, police returned to dismantle the residents' barricade in Upper Tacbao, Barangay Bitnong. The company retaliated after finding its excavator burned that same day.

With the support of PNP Dupax Del Norte, they threatened, harassed, and insulted the barricading residents and destroyed their belongings. They blocked two female residents and forced them to undress. The police also aimed guns at residents for asserting their rights. They stole the residents' cell phones and IDs when the latter attempted to document the violence.

International day of migrant workers marked in the Philippines and abroad

VARIOUS MIGRANTE CHAPTERS marked the international day of migrant workers on December 18. They also declared it as "Zero Remittance Day against corruption," a day when migrants collectively withhold sending money to the Philippines. This served as a migrant workers' protest to register their condemnation of rampant corruption and to demand accountability from all those involved.

Migrante chapters in Thailand, Hong Kong, Japan, Canada, France, Italy, Australia, South Korea, Germany, the Middle East, and the USA participated in the campaign.

Several Migrante chapters also launched protests to denounce their ordeal of abuse and discrimination as migrant workers.

In New Zealand, Migrante-Aotearoa called for ending the system that shackles migrant workers' visas to their employers.

In the US, the Tanggol Migrante Movement (TMM) protested at the Philippine consulates in Chicago, California, and Washington to call for the release of Filipino immigrants detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). They also announced the establishment of Families of Filipinos in Detention, an organization of relatives, friends, and former ICE detainees.

In the Philippines, Migrante Philippines members from its chapters in various provinces protested in Mendiola. Protest participants included the Concerned Seafarers of the Philippines, the Samahan ng mga DH sa Gitnang Silangan, and Kilusang Mayo Uno.

Military and police brutality in Masbate and Occidental Mindoro

IN MASBATE, the 2nd IB captured, tortured, and willfully killed a New People's Army (NPA)-Masbate Red fighter on December 13. The fighter sustained a leg injury and was captured after a battle in Barangay Pitogo, Cataingan that day. Soldiers subjected him to brutal physical torture in retaliation for the death of two soldiers of the 2nd IB in the encounter.

Meanwhile, on December 9, police arrested Juanito Bultron on murder charges and accused him of being a high-ranking official of the NPA. He is a resident of Barangay Teresita, Cataingan and has a mental disability. Police claimed to have arrested him in Barangay Malibas, Palanas.

In Occidental Mindoro, the 76th IB abducted and tortured Dolores Mariano Solangon, a 47-year-old Mangyan-Iraya woman, in Abra de Ilog, Occidental Mindoro on December 2 at around 1:30 p.m. Soldiers tied her to a tree and interrogated her until 4:00 p.m.

They brought her to a mountainous area and tortured her again until 9:00 p.m. They also forced her to dig her own grave and threatened to kill her if she escaped. The 76th IB abducted and tortured Solangon after its encounter with the NPA in Sitio Balite, Barangay Lumangbayan in Abra de Ilog on November 26.

2026 budget "pork" fund deal finalized in bicam

THE DEVIOUS MANIPULATION of the pork barrel in the 2026 budget was exposed to the public during the bicameral conference committee (bicam) of the Senate and House of Representatives. Despite being livestreamed, lawmakers did not hide their bickering over various forms of pork barrel and how much would remain in the budget. The bicam finalized the pork barrel-laden budget on December 18.

The Senate pretended to cut the Department of Public Works and Highways budget by ₱45 billion for overpricing, only to restore more than half of the funds in the bicam. This retained the large portion of the "allocable" and "non-allocable" funds in the budget, from which the president, congressmen, and senators draw their respective kickbacks.

Another item agreed in bicam was adding funds for Medical Assistance for Indigent and Financially Incapacitated Patients, the congressmen's pork barrel in the form of "health service." The bicam raised the allocation from the original ₱49.2 billion to ₱51.64 billion, funds that should have gone directly to public hospitals' budget.

The bicam also manipulated the "LGU pork" or Local Government Support Fund, which the Senate almost doubled from ₱20.2 billion to ₱38.1 billion. The Senate reduced the funds for employees' benefits and bonuses to expand the aid funds controlled by local officials.

These allocations augment funds previously agreed upon, held by legislators in the form of aid. The bicam also raised the Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situations aid from the original ₱27 billion to ₱63 billion.

Marcos' ₱243.4 billion pork barrel for unprogrammed appropriation (notoriously used in anomalous flood control projects) and ₱10.77 billion in confidential and intelligence funds also remained intact. The fascist agency NTF-Elcac also retained its ₱8-billion pork barrel.

Fisherfolk and peasants suffer damages and anxiety from the imperialist war

Fisherfolk and peasants living near US military bases and war games sites do not consider the imperialist war a distant possibility. They already suffer from anxiety and the devastation it brings to their livelihood and communities.

A 35-person delegation from the US documented this among many other cases when they toured communities near military bases or EDCA sites in November. They separately visited Cagayan Valley, Ilocos, Central Luzon, Cagayan de Oro, Marawi City, and Cebu City for two weeks. They also went to sites of frequent large-scale war games such as Balikatan.

The delegation came to the Philippines amid the Trump regime's rising militarism in Asia. In the past two years alone, the US deployed long-range missiles in the Philippines, announced the construction of ammunition and drone factories, and opened more locations for storage, outposts, and ports for American troops and ships. It conducted relentless war games, live-fire exercises at sea, and simulated combat offensives and defenses.

In the communities the delegation visited, residents know that the military bases and war games place them—and the Philippines—at the center of the imperialist war between the US and China. American officials themselves admitted that the EDCA sites are directly linked to “US defense of Taiwan.” These officials also pushed the US to “sell” the EDCA sites to Taiwan as “non-weaponry support service” for the country.

Real damage from simulated war

“We thought that war had started,” was the common remark of

residents to the delegation's interviews in villages across the Cagayan Valley. Many of them were startled by the sudden influx of foreign troops, large vehicles, and roaring aircraft in their area whenever the US held war games.

“No warning. No one told us what would happen or for how long,” a delegation interviewee stated. Their livelihood is abruptly put on hold to make way for troop “simulations” of seaborne attacks. The troops’ combat maneuvers reach the roads, farmlands, fishing areas, and yards.

Residents feel imprisoned in their own houses while the “simulated war” “rages” outside their gates. They receive no aid for daily survival. They receive no compensation for the days they cannot work. After the “war,” the troops even leave behind bullet casings and other ammunition waste along the shores where children play.

Danger at sea

The presence of the US and its war games directly endangers Filipino fisherfolk. This December alone, the US launched a series of Maritime Cooperative Activities (MCA) as a “power projection” over disputed islands and formations in the South China Sea. The first one



(December 9–10) took place west of Zambales, near the traditional fishing grounds of Scarborough Shoal. The US deployed different types of jet fighters and paraded the massive aircraft carrier USS Rafael Peralta.

China considered the activity a “provocation” that heightened tension in the sea. It resulted in a maritime standoff between Chinese and Filipino forces on December 11–12, which embroiled Filipino fisherfolk.

The US used the incident to justify the next MCA's rapid launching (December 15–16). It sent the USS Robert Smalls, a guided-missile cruiser, to stoke the emerging confrontation and portray itself as the “savior” of the Philippines. This series of incidents is part of the broader pattern of US provocation, China's counteractions, and the consequent harm to the livelihood and welfare of Filipino fisherfolk. AB

India's undefeatable revolutionary movement

Operation Kagar, the Indian reactionary state's fascist attack against the masses and the revolutionary Indian movement, has been unparalleled in the past nearly two years. In response, the Communist Party of India (Maoist), the People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA), and India's entire revolutionary movement persist in frustrating Kagar's declared goal to end and crush the people's resistance by March 2026.

The PLGA has valiantly resisted Operation Kagar since its launching in January 2024. The guerrilla army has carried out armed actions defying the massive offensive and extermination forces of the Modi regime, the emergence of military camps, and liquidation campaigns against Party leadership.

PLGA armed actions in the past year killed 116 police and military forces and wounded 208. It also targeted active police and military informers and notorious leaders of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party in India. The army mainly used explosives in its operations, and indigenous weapons such as spike traps in some instances.

Nonetheless, the CPI (Maoist) candidly reported that it suffered severe losses during the past year. It said that these defeats stemmed from internal weaknesses, failures to implement the Central Committee's plans, and the intensified state attacks.

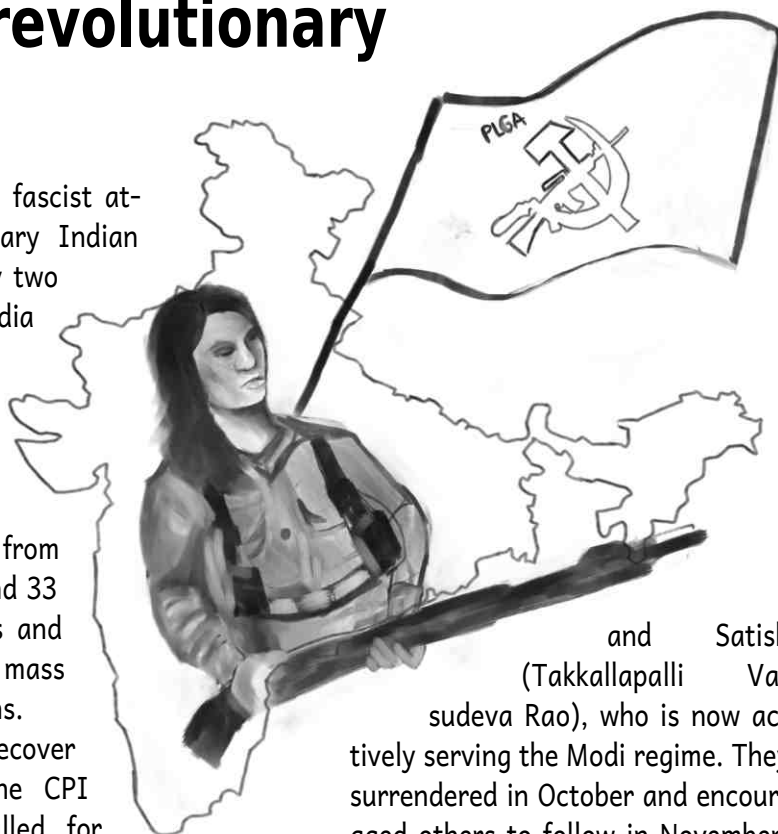
From December 2024 to November this year, 320 revolutionaries were martyred, 117 of whom were women. At least 237 of them were Party members. Eight were Central Committee level, including Party secretary general Comrade Basavaraju; 15 were state committee level; 25 were district level; and 73 were area committee level. Thir-

teen came from the PLGA and 33 were cadres and activists of mass organizations.

To recover strength, the CPI (Maoist) called for intensifying the struggle against Operation Kagar nationwide. The Party pushed to identify and correct the mistakes of the past 22 months to prevent further losses. It also emphasized studying and analyzing the objective conditions and subjective forces in each area to revitalize the Party, consolidate the PLGA, and strengthen the mass organizations.

One of the mistakes the Party identified earlier, particularly in the people's war, was its restriction to narrower areas of operation. It said that the army must move along broader coverages and not remain centralized. A specific example was the failure to transfer PLGA troops from the Dandakaranya region, the epicenter of Operation Kagar, to other regions.

In addition, the Party revealed the need to expose, denounce, and confront traitors to the revolution. Most notorious among these traitors are Sonu (Mallojula Venugopal Rao), former member of the Political Bureau of CPI (Maoist),



and Satish
(Takkallapalli Va-

sudeva Rao), who is now actively serving the Modi regime. They surrendered in October and encouraged others to follow in November. The group pulled in 299 individuals who surrendered no less than 277 weapons of the PLGA and the Party.

"At this time, our duty is to remove fear and anxiety within our ranks, instill courage, and build the self-confidence of our Party," the CPI (Maoist) said. It added that the deepening crisis in the country has further clarified the necessity for the Party to lead the Indian masses' overall class struggle to overthrow the rule of imperialists, big compradors, and landlords.

The celebration of the 25th anniversary of the PLGA on December 2 demonstrated the revolutionary movement of India's determination to advance. During the Week of Celebration from December 2-8, group meetings and small gatherings were held in forests, plains, and urban centers. The revolutionaries posted and distributed posters and leaflets calling for the strengthening of and membership to the PLGA. They carried this out with strict precaution and priority on security amid intensified state attacks.

AB